

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method for allowing the sharing of social relationships collections comprising the steps of:
creating a social relationship collection object for a first user that provides access to at least one individual with whom they have a social relationship;
allowing a second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object; and
as a result of allowing said second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object, said second user inspects a reference contained in the first user's social relationship collection object.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing said social relationship collection object as a user list.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of associating said user list with a meta-tag.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of automatically modifying the meta-tag when retrieved by said second user.

- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing meta-tags for said social relationship collection object for indicating when a given reference within said object was used.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing meta-tags that indicate the type of relationship between the first user and at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a meta-tag for at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing usage history for at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.
- [c9] 9. A method for hosting a service that allows for the sharing of social relationships collections comprising the steps of:
creating a social relationship collection object for a first user that provides access to at least one individual with whom they have a social relationship;
allowing a second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object; and
as a result of allowing said second user to retrieve said

social relationship collection object, said second user inspects a reference contained in the first user's social relationship collection object.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing said social relationship collection object as a user list.

[c11] 11 The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of associating said user list with a meta-tag.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of automatically modifying the meta-tag when retrieved by said second user.

[c13] 13. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing meta-tags for said social relationship collection object for indicating when a given reference within said object was used.

[c14] 14. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing meta-tags that indicate the type of relationship between the first user and at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

[c15] 15. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing a meta-tag for at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

[c16] 16. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of providing usage history for at least one reference within said social relationship collection object.

[c17] 17. An apparatus for use in a computer services environment, said apparatus comprising:
at least one processor operative to create a social relationship collection object for a first user that provides access to at least one reference with whom they have a social relationship, allow a second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object, and as a result of allowing said second user to retrieve said social relationship collection object, said second user inspects a reference contained in the first user's social relationship collection object.

[c18] 18. A method for allowing a first organization to enable a second organization to use social relationship collection objects of the first organization, the method comprising the steps of:
determining the number of users in the second organization that would be using the social relationship collection objects of the first organization,
configuring and installing a server at the first organization to handle requests from the users of the second organization, and

ensuring the all relevant members of the second organization have a client application for accessing the server.